



Report from the Dakota CC Board Chair

As the largest community centre in Winnipeg, Dakota Community Centre (DCC) continues to deliver a vast array of expanded programming that our community members thrive upon. Our 2022/2023 year-end results continue to have Dakota Community Centre in a strong financial position, as we continue to invest significantly in facility upgrades and repairs.

This wouldn't be possible without our dedicated staff, volunteers (we had more than 90 new volunteers join the Dakota CC Volunteer Program in the past year), board members, and senior leadership team (Michele Augert, Jody Wreggit, and Mark Spencer and their staff), whose tireless efforts have managed to ensure the health, safety, and financial stability of our centre.

While we look to the future with optimism, we would like to reflect on some of the notable highlights, investments, and events that took place over the past year:

- \$1.7M was invested in necessary upgrades to our aging twin-pad ice plant to ensure our rinks, and the infrastructure to support them, are efficient and able to keep our rinks running for another 25 years. These upgrades included a new chiller, new boilers, and the addition of a much needed snowmelt pit, which will continue to enhance the quality of ice and improve environmental impacts to our forest for the future.
- A new \$800K equipment and fuel storage building is in the final stages of completion, at the west end of our campus beside the waterpark. This new building will provide much needed storage for our fleet of equipment, vehicles, and outdoor rink ice re-surfacer. Our sincere thanks to the Province of Manitoba's Arts Sports and Culture Grant for \$1.05M of support towards the ice plant and storage building upgrades to our Centre.
- Our Great Hall, on the second floor of the sportsplex (between the two arenas) is currently getting a much-needed facelift, with more than \$1M in total upgrades. This space is being modernized so it can continue to host large events, but also adaptable to accommodate multiple smaller events simultaneously. We are grateful to the Provincial Building Sustainable Communities Grant program for \$240K towards this exciting project, which is expected to be completed in early March 2024.
- A new \$120K outdoor fitness playground (75% of funds provided under Canada Community Revitalization Grant) was recently completed at the end of October. Located between the library and CJS, our new fitness playground features several pieces of fitness equipment

made specially to appeal to a child's (ages 5 and up) desire for adventure, while providing them with age-appropriate challenges. Equipment includes over under bars, a spider-walk, stepping rock, boogie board, Mobius climber, high step rope and jump hang. A grand opening of this new community play place will be held with MP Terry Duguid in the Spring.

- If you haven't checked out our new and improved canteen lately, we are pleased to share an arrangement with the Mashyna Family (an immigrant family from Ukraine) to operate and manage food services through the Centre Ice Café. Significant media coverage in print, radio and television (see Winnipeg Free Press article from November 18, 2023), DCC promotions, an explosion on social media, and general word of mouth in the community has translated into early exceptional results in this area. The community and DCC patrons are very pleased and supportive of this new arrangement and the quality and consistency of food services at DCC are unprecedented. This unique arrangement has been a win-win for both DCC and this hard-working new family to our City. Plans to expand services (catering) and menu offerings are ongoing, and we are continuing to work with the family to assess and define a longer-term operating model for this service. They are also offering frozen meals that can be cooked at home.
- DCC played host to the World in late July and early August as a host site for the World Police & Fire Game Pickleball and Volleyball competition events. While plans for the hockey tournament at DCC never materialized due to lack of registration, the Centre was proud to showcase our awesome facilities to the world, as well as provide a host of volunteers providing food and beverage services throughout these two weeks.
- We were thrilled to launch the First ever Dakota Community Family Fun Days on the grounds of our campus on August 18 & 19, with great attendance from the community on both days. Sponsorship received covered a majority of costs for this event. This free event for the community included an outdoor stage with exceptional entertainment throughout the weekend, an outdoor movie night, children's games, bouncers, a beer garden, 50/50 draws and silent auction, as well as an outdoor market and food trucks. Unfortunately the fireworks were cancelled due to extreme winds but plans are underway for the 2nd annual event next summer.
- DCC's Annual Christmas Market, held on November 3 & 4, was sold out with more than 95 vendors confirmed and significant waitlist for any space that comes available. Pop up markets have continued at DCC through all major weekend events (Vics Days, Ringette Tournaments, etc.) and are well received.
- Our 3rd annual Skate with Santa event has received an overwhelming response with more than 1,000 people signing up in advance for the event being held on Sat. Dec. 23. Some spaces are still available for members of the DCC catchment community, but registration has been closed for all others.

- Our annual fundraising program kicked off today with our participation in Giving Tuesday, a global movement for charities to seek donations following Black Friday. Our annual giving campaign continues through the month of December with various mailers, communiques and social media to encourage individuals to support Dakota CC with their donations. We hope you all take an opportunity to support DCC this holiday season and we thank you for your generosity.

Of course, these are just a sampling of the many things that have been accomplished or happening at your community centre this past year. On behalf of the Dakota CC board, management, staff, and volunteers, we would like to sincerely thank our members, patrons, and stakeholders for your continued support and patience as we navigated a particularly busy year at our centre, and as we re-emerge better and stronger than ever before.

I would like to extend warm wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,



Christian Kennedy

Board Chair